

DOCKET NO.: DATE-0003
Application No.: 09/826,230
Office Action Dated: December 16, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 23. Claims 9 and 23 have been canceled. Claims 10, 12, and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 1 and claims 24, 26 and 27 have been amended to depend from claim 15. No new matter has been entered. Moreover, as all pending claims have been searched and considered by the Examiner, no new issues are raised by these claim amendments.

In the Official Action, claims 1-36 and 39-41 stand finally rejected as allegedly being obvious over the combined teachings of Boyd (US 2002/019404) and Hanson et al. (US 6,691,153). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant appreciates Examiner Mirza's hospitality during a personal interview with Applicant's undersigned representative on March 8, 2005. At the interview, Examiner Mirza indicated that, upon reconsideration, he would withdraw his rejection of claims 29-36 and 39-41 over the cited prior art. Examiner Mirza also indicated that he would withdraw the rejection of claims 1-28 over the cited prior art if claim 1 were amended to include the limitations of claim 9 and claim 15 were amended to include the limitations of claim 23. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 as proposed by Examiner Mirza. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-36 and 39-41 is requested.

The claims as presented are believed to be in condition for allowance. Examiner Mirza indicated that he would need to perform an update search before he could commit to allowing the claims. Applicant requests that Examiner Mirza contact Applicant's undersigned representative in the event that any additional prior art is discovered that Examiner Mirza believes may be relevant. Applicant would like to cooperate as necessary to move the present application rapidly to issuance.


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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-36 and 39-41 and issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

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